

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Through his role on the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman John V. Olver is the Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, HUD, and the Gulf Coast. The hearings were held today, Oct. 6, 2005 and last week, on Sept. 27, 2005. Today, Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. At the hearings, Olver questioned officials on their plans for rebuilding federal housing for thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina. "It has been over four weeks since Hurricane Katrina made landfall and devastated the Gulf Coast, despite the fact that the region is still in need of assistance," Olver added, "Rebuilding the region is something that we're going to be dealing with for a very long time." The Gulf Coast region includes more than 700,000 units of HUD-assisted or insured housing for approximately 1.5 million people. "We must take a very serious look at HUD's current programs and its ability and authority to respond to the needs of the region," Olver said. Regarding transportation, Olver noted that DOT has repaired the US-11 bridge that links Slidell to east St. Louis. "This is a good start, but rebuilding the region's transportation infrastructure will be difficult," Olver said.

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